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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/820,827

04/09/2004

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ALC 3126

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7590 10/02/2007  
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EXAMINER

TANK, ANDREW L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/02/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,827

Applicant(s)

MARTINEAU ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Tank

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is in response to the amendment and arguments filed July 11, 2007. Claims 8-10, 12, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and have been considered below.

#### ***Specification***

2. The Abstract objection of April 17, 2007 has been overcome by the Abstract amendment submitted by Applicant on July 11, 2007, and is hereby withdrawn.

#### ***Claim Objections***

3. The Claim objections of April 17, 2007 regarding claims 8 and 9 have been overcome by the amendments submitted by Applicant on July 11, 2007. The Claim objections are hereby withdrawn.

#### ***Double Patenting***

4. Applicant's advisement of July 11, 2007 regarding the substantially duplicate claims has been taken into consideration and the advisement regarding substantially duplicate claims of April 17, 2007 is withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. Applicant's argument of July 11, 2007 regarding the 35 USC § 112 rejection of Claims 2, 3, and 6-8 has overcome the rejection of April 17, 2007, and the rejection is hereby withdrawn.
6. Applicant's amendment of Claim 12, dated July 11, 2007, has overcome the antecedent basis rejection of April 17, 2007. The rejection is hereby withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

7. Applicant's amendment of Claims 10-18, dated July 11, 2007, has overcome the non-statutory rejection of April 17, 2007. The rejection is hereby withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 5,850,388), hereafter known as "Anderson".
  - **Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 19 and 20:** Anderson discloses a method implemented by a PC to display highlighted objects' (col 324 line 59 "object-oriented") information regarding a communication network on a graphical user interface (col 22 lines 50-54 "executed by the PC", "network monitoring session", col 29 lines 28-30, Fig. 21), by:

Art Unit: 2173

- highlighting a primary object  $O(n)$  on a GUI window at a selected hierarchically level (col 29 lines 27-30 "highlight one ISO protocol layer", Fig. 20);
- identifying a highlighted object  $O(n-1)$  subtended by said primary object at a hierarchically next lower level (col 29 lines 27-30 revealing usage by the protocols detected on the network, col 28 lines 31-35 "iteratively examining the contents", "builds a hierarchical protocol distribution structure (tree structure)", Fig. 20 – NetBIOS, SAP, RIP);
- selecting said highlighted object from an object storage means and placing same in a visualization of highlighted objects (col 29 lines 5-26);
- repeating for all available hierarchical levels until all highlighted objects corresponding to said primary objects are identified and placed in said list (col 28 lines 31-35 "iteratively examining the contents", col 29 lines 5-26).
- While the protocol distribution embodiment of the network analyzer GUI disclosed by Anderson shows that the highlighted objects do have names (Fig. 20 - NetBIOS, SAP, RIP), rankings (Fig. 20 - as reflected in percentages), icons (Fig. 20) and descriptions, it does not specifically show that the visualization of highlighted object is done through the use of a table, in this particular embodiment. However, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art, as exemplified by Anderson in alternative embodiments (col. 25 line 22 "Station-Level Statistics User Interface" Fig. 18, col 30 line 31 "Event Information User Interface"), to visualize object oriented database entries as a table containing rows and columns (Fig. 21). Each row represents an object (Fig. 21 col 30 lines 12-17) and each column

represents attribute information relating to each object, in reference of claims 4 and 11, including: name and description, in reference of claims 5 and 13, status, in reference of claims 7 and 14, and count, in reference of claims 8 and 15 (Fig. 21, col 30 lines 12-17). These tables are further sortable to be arranged in a specific order, in reference of claim 2, (col 26 lines 31-36) by column choice, in reference of claims 9 and 12 (col 26 lines 41-51). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, and the teachings of Anderson before him at the time the present invention was made, to visualize the selected highlighted object data, as disclosed by the embodiment of Anderson above, by combining the known components of a table using a row for each object to yield the predictable result of the table having columns providing an attribute specific to said object, said columns allowing a user to sort said objects (col 26 lines 31-36), said columns including: a count column (Fig. 21 first column), a name column (Fig. 21 Analyzer object name), a specification and status column of said object (Fig. 21 event column), and an icon column (Fig. 20 discloses icons associated with each highlighted object, icons are attribute information). One would have been motivated to allow this visualization of the object data in order to provide a user with several formats in which to assess the information, as suggested by Anderson (col 23 lines 55-57).

- **Claims 3 and 20:** Anderson discloses the network analyzer GUI method as in claims 1 and 19 above, wherein the hierarchical highlighted objects are displayed in a sortable table format. Anderson further discloses that the highlighted objects have hierarchical data associated with them (col 29 lines 27-30 revealing usage by the protocols detected on the

network, col 28 lines 31-35 "iteratively examining the contents", "builds a hierarchical protocol distribution structure (tree structure)", Fig. 20 – NetBIOS, SAP, RIP) and, as established above, data associated with the objects are displayed in columnar format relating the data to the objects. The table is sorted by its columns. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, and the teachings of Anderson before him at the time the present invention was made, to specify the order of the objects in the table by a column relating data to the objects, as disclosed in claim 1 above, wherein the sorting column is a column relating hierarchical data to each object, as disclosed by Anderson. It would have been obvious to implement this sorting in order to provide the user with another way to sort and visualize the highlighted object data, as suggested by Anderson (col 26 lines 31-36).

- **Claim 16:** Anderson discloses the network analyzer GUI system as in claim 10 above, and further discloses an object library for maintaining data pertinent to all objects present at a respective network node (col 28 lines 44-47).
- **Claim 17:** Anderson discloses the network analyzer GUI system as in claim 10 above, and further discloses a connectivity database for maintaining routing data pertinent to all routes currently involving a respective network node (col 28 lines 44-47).
- **Claim 18:** Anderson discloses the network analyzer GUI system as in claim 10 above, and further discloses wherein said highlighted objects window comprises a refresh button for updating said list (col 28 lines 57-67 "user selected update").

Art Unit: 2173

***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9-10, filed July 11, 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 2, 4-7, 9-14, and 16-19 under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Anderson, as applied above.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Tank whose telephone number is 571-270-1692. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (Alt. Fri Off) 0730-1500 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Myhre can be reached on 571-270-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

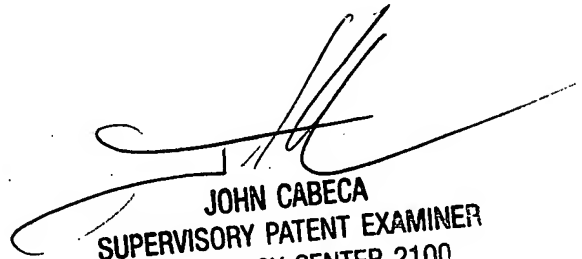


Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



ALT  
September 25, 2007



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